

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 L-03 AID-20

H-03 RSR-01 AGR-20 /149 W

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R 070431Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7067

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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MANILA PASS CODEL WOLFF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: BURMESE EDITORIAL ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

REF-. RANGOON 1801 B. RANGOON 1804

1. ATTENTION OF DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES INVITED TO REMARKABLE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "DRUG ABUSE CONTROL" WHICH APPEARED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE GUARDIAN ON AUGUST 5, WAS QUOTED IN FULL IN REF A, AND WAS CITED BRIEFLY IN PARA 5 REF B. IT COVERED WIDE RANGE OF THEMES, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

(A) INTERNATIONAL DRUG ABUSE CAMPAIGN DESERVES ALL COOPERATION WHICH ALL GOVERNMENTS AND WORLD BODIES CAN MUSTER.

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(B) INDIRECT METHODS EMPLOYED FOR CONTROLLING INTERNATIONAL

FLOW OF DANGEROUS DRUGS HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE MAINLY BECAUSE PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT SHARED SAME DEGREE OF CONCERN AND INTEREST, AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC HAS GROWN.

(C) "WHEN THE TERM GOLDEN TRIANGLE IS MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH GLOBAL MISERIES STEMMING FROM DRUG ABUSE WE CANNOT BUT HELP FEEL CHAGRINED BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF A SECTION OF OUR TERRITORY," BUT GUB HAS MADE EFFORTS ON ITS PART TO REMOVE PART OF THE CAUSE FOR THE SCOURGE ON HUMANITY.

(D) A US CONGRESSMAN (LESTER WOLFF) TERMED BURMA ARMY'S ASSAULT ON STRONGHOLD OF PRINCIPAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS "AN ASTOUNDING SUCCESS" AND LO HSING-HAN'S CAPTURE "SOLID EVIDENCE" OF BURMESE COOPERATION, WITH THAILAND ALSO RECEIVING CREDIT.

(E) CONTINUED EFFORTS ARE TO BE EXPECTED, BECAUSE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN BURMA HAVE PROVIDED EVIDENCE OF GROWING MENACE OF DRUG ABUSE.

(F) RECENT CALL BY HIGH BURMESE HEALTH OFFICIAL FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE WAS FOLLOWED BY REPORT ON INCREASING NUMBER OF PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT IN RANGOON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

(SEE RANGOON A-96) BUT UNREPORTED CASES INSTITUTE NO LESS A MENACE TO SOCIETY AND HUMANITY IN GENERAL.

(G) SUPPLY SIDE MUST BE ATTACKED, WITH POPPY GROWERS BEING REHABILITATED AND CRACKDOWN NECESSARY ON ILLICIT MOVEMENT OF NARCOTICS, INCLUDING NEW LAW WHICH WILL INCREASE PENALTIES AND HOPEFULLY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN DRUG PEDDLER WHO DESERVES LONG IMPRISONMENT, AND HIS VICTIM, WHO NEEDS TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION.

(H) BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL EFFORTS AND POOLING OF RESOURCES AND KNOW-HOW MUST CONTINUE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

2. COMMENT: FACT THAT SUCH AN EDITORIAL, ENCOMPASSING SO MANY KEY POINTS WHICH USG ITSELF HAS BEEN MAKING FOR SO LONG, COULD APPEAR IN RANGOON GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS IS A TELLING INDICATOR OF EXTENT TO WHICH GUB ATTITUDES TOWARDS NARCOTICS MENACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE CHANGED SINCE LAST YEAR. THIS EVIDENT SHIFT, COMING ON HEELS OF RECENT VIGOROUS AND EFFECTIVE GUB ACTIONS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS, OFFERS REAL HOPE THAT MORE IS YET TO COME.
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